

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In order to hasten the prosecution of the present application, the present Amendment incorporates features indicated as being allowable in the pending Office Action, reserving the right to amend the claims back to their originally filed form in the event that the present application is not allowed.

Claims 1-4, 6-15, 17-24, 26-31, 33-54 and 56-57 are pending. Claims 5, 16, 32 and 55 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, 21, 33, 47, 54 and 56-57 have been currently amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has indicated that Claims 47 and 54-57 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, Page 25, bottom 3 lines).

Applicant has rewritten Claims 47, 54 and 56-57 in accordance with the Patent Office’s instruction. Thus, Claims 47, 54 and 56-57 should be allowed.

Applicant has included the limitation of the canceled Claim 55 into independent Claim 1. In other words, Claim 1 is the canceled Claim 55 in independent form. Since the Patent Office has indicated that the canceled Claim 55 would be allowable if written in independent form (Office Action, Page 25, bottom 3 lines), Claim 1 should be allowed.

Claims 2-4, 6-11, 45 and 48-53 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-24, 26-41 and 45-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon et al. (“Cannon”, U.S. Patent No. 6,104,582) in view of Pinder (“Pinder”, U.S. Patent No. 6,112,074). Claims 42-44 and 48-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cannon in view of Pinder further in view of Miche (“Miche”, U.S. Patent No. 5,742,235). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Reply to Office Action of March 14, 2005

The Patent Office has indicated that the canceled Claim 55 would be allowable if written in independent form (see the foregoing *Allowable Subject Matter* section). Independent Claims 12, 21 and 33 each include the limitation of "wherein the database includes an indication that a first device is susceptible to lightning, and wherein the database includes an indication that a corresponding protective action is disconnecting the device from at least one of an external power connection or an external communication connection," which is the limitation in the canceled Claim 55. Therefore, Claims 12, 21 and 33 are allowable.

Claims 13-15, 17-20 and 46 depend from Claim 12 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence. Claims 22-24, 26-31 and 42-44 depend from Claim 21 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence. Claims 34-41 depend from Claim 33 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence.

CONCLUSION

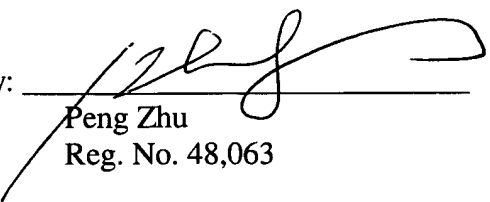
In light of the foregoing arguments and amendments, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 13, 2005

By: _____


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